

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph 25

In operation, needle sheath 48 is removed from needle hub 10. After use, to cover the now contaminated needle 12, housing 20 is pivoted in the direction as shown per directional arrow 23 until it becomes substantially aligned along longitudinal axis 36. At about that time, needle 12 snaps past and is grasped by integral catch member 50, which may be in the form of a hook, within channel 42 of housing 20; and hub 50 10 is covered by proximal portion 38 of housing 20. Also, extensions 32 formed on the outside of collar 18 become caught by catches 34 formed at the base of housing 20. As a result, needle 12 is fixedly retained within housing 20 and housing 20 in turn is fixedly retained to collar 18, with collar 18 not removable from syringe barrel 4 due to flanges 28 having a small diameter than undercut 27 of groove 24. The now used fixed needle syringe, with the contaminated needle no longer exposed, can then be disposed of.

Paragraph 26

Fig. 5 shows an alternative embodiment of the fixed needle syringe of the instant invention. For this embodiment, note that the needle reception area of syringe barrel 4, instead of a groove, has a boss 52 formed circumferentially at distal portion 6. Note further that hub 10 has a number of evenly spaced fins 51 extending lengthwise along the hub. For the sake of simplicity, the needle of the fixed needle syringe is not shown in the Fig. 5 embodiment. For mating with the alternative syringe of Fig. 5, a collar 54 as shown in Fig. 6 may be utilized. For the alternative embodiments, components that are the same as in the Fig. 1 embodiment are labeled the same.